

Listing of the claims

1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Withdrawn) A composition for topical administration of an ascomycin for treatment of skin disorders which composition comprises an ascomycin and a carrier vehicle, said carrier vehicle comprising

(i) means to retain water in the outer skin layer comprising a urea, an inorganic salt, or a carboxylic acid, wherein said carboxylic acid is a carboxylic acid or derivative thereof selected from the group consisting of a cyclic carboxylic acid or salt thereof; lactic acid; glycolic acid; lactic acid sodium and/or ammonium salt; glycolic acid sodium and/or ammonium salt; lactamide; lactamidopropyl-triammonium chloride; and sodium cocoyl lactylate, and

(ii) means to hinder water evaporating from the skin.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition in the form of an ointment for topical administration of 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin which composition comprises 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin and a carrier vehicle, said carrier vehicle comprising

(i) means to retain water in the outer skin layer, and

(ii) means to hinder water evaporating from the skin,

wherein the composition further comprises water in an amount of from 0 to about 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

16. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.

17. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.

18. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

19. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

20. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 16 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

21. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 18 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.

22 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 19 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.

23. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises
(iii) liquid means to solubilize ascomycin.

24. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises
(iii) liquid means to solubilize 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin.

25. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 23 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or fatty oil.

26. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 24 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or a fatty oil.

27. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 25 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.

28. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 26 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.

29. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the ascomycin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.

30. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.

31. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the composition.

32. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the composition.

33. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing penetration of an ascomycin through human skin comprising administering a composition according to claim 14 to said human skin.

34. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing penetration of 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin through human skin comprising administering a composition according to claim 15 to said human skin.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment to an inflammatory or hyperproliferative skin disease comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 14.

36. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment to an inflammatory or hyperproliferative skin disease comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 15.

37. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically mediated diseases comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 14.

38. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically mediated diseases comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 15.

39. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 14 wherein said cyclic carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate; 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate sodium and/or calcium salt; 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate derivatives of amino acids; and 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylic laurate.

40. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is a urea.
41. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 17 wherein the inorganic salt is sodium chloride.